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February 14, 2022

Lourenco C. Goncalves  
Chief Executive Officer  
Cleveland-Cliffs Inc.  
200 Public Square, Suite 3300  
Cleveland, OH 44114

Dear Mr. Goncalves:

I was extremely disappointed to hear that last Friday, Cleveland-Cliffs announced that it would be closing the Mountain State Carbon coke plant (the "Plant") in Follansbee in an effort to appear more "green." This announcement was surprising, and the news of the Plant's imminent closure caught many state and local officials, as well as employees, off guard.

As you know, Brooke County is home to one of the few remaining coke plants in the region. The Plant is a significant economic driver in Follansbee and the surrounding area, and its closure will have a devastating impact. To make matters worse, this sudden announcement comes on the heels of discussions regarding upgrades to the Plant, which would have brought additional economic prosperity and jobs to Brooke County.

Now, there are nearly 300 direct employees that will have their jobs relocated, or even eliminated, and taxes paid by the Plant, which provide funding for public schools and emergency services, will be lost.

I therefore request an immediate response, in writing, to the following questions:

1. Given that the Plant's property is a prime industrial site in Brooke County, there is a significant amount of concern regarding the property's future.
  - a. Did Cleveland-Cliffs make any attempt to sell the Plant to another buyer?
  - b. In the absence of selling the Plant, what are Cleveland-Cliffs' plans for the property?
2. In the press release, Cleveland-Cliffs cites its own demand for coke decreasing, yet there appears to be a strong demand for this product overseas. How much of the Plant's remaining inventory will be exported overseas?

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3. In addition to the nearly 300 direct employees affected by this closure, a significant number of construction workers at the plant will also be impacted.
  - a. How many direct and indirect workers that will be affected by the closure?
  - b. Does this announcement affect any future or existing contracts with local or regional businesses that may have been in discussions with Cleveland-Cliffs to assist with upgrades to the Plant?
4. It is important that Cleveland-Cliffs employees stay in West Virginia, rather than have to pick up and move their families and livelihoods elsewhere.
  - a. How many employees will be able to remain with the company at other Cleveland-Cliffs locations within a reasonable commute?
  - b. How many employees will be able to work at locations in:
    - i. Weirton?
    - ii. Southwestern Pennsylvania?
5. Did Cleveland-Cliffs issue any WARN notices prior to the announcement, or are there plans to do so?
6. What is Cleveland-Cliffs' plan for environmental remediation and monitoring of the Plant site?
7. Energy costs are at a seven-year high, and inflation is at a 40-year high. How much did those economic factors play into your decision to shutter the Plant?

I appreciate your attention to this matter and urge you to revisit the decision to close the Plant. Please have your staff contact Jake Tyner in my Washington D.C. office at 202-225-4172 to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

  
David B. McKinley, P.E.  
Member of Congress